Welcome to Small Farm Canada’s annual seed buying guide. You’ll find seed suppliers from across Canada and the U.S. who have worked hard to supply whatever seeds, bulbs, corms, etc. your small farm needs. So put a log on the fire, curl up with the cat and start planning!

A’Bunadh Seeds
Box 127, Cherhill AB, T0E 0J0
780-785-2622
gardenofeden2010.wordpress.com
Heirloom seeds and plants grown in Northern Alberta.

Adaptive Seeds
25079 Brush Creek Rd
Sweet Home OR 97386
questions@adaptiveseeds.com
www.adaptiveseeds.com
Pacific Northwest grown, open-pollinated organic seed.

Agrohaitai Ltd.
2764 Hwy 99, Box 45
Lynden ON L0R 1T0
519-647-2280
agrohaitai.com
Seeds for Oriental vegetables.

Annapolis Seeds
8528 Hwy 201, Nictaux NS B0S 1P0
annapolisseeds.com
Heirloom vegetable, grain, herb and flower seeds — all grown in the Maritimes by small-scale growers committed to ecological farming methods. A living seed bank.

Aster Lane Edibles
Kinburn ON
www.asterlaneedibles.ca
Ornamental edibles and other practical plants.

August’s Harvest
4727 E Perth Road 130
Gads Hill ON, N0K 1J0
1-877-272-1742
augustsharvest.com
Seed garlic: Porcelains (Music, Norquay), Rocambole (Legacy), Purple Stripe (Jachlo), Glazed Purple Stripe (Svea) and Elephant garlic. Garlic livestock feed supplements.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
2278 Baker Creek Road
Mansfield MO 65704 USA
417-924-8917
www.rareseeds.com
Heirloom vegetable, herb and flower seeds.

Berton Seeds
4260 Weston Rd.
Toronto ON M9L 1W9
www.bertonseeds.ca
Italian vegetable seeds.
**Bird & Bee**  
2530 Autumn Hill Cres.  
Ottawa ON, K1B 4M7  
613-601-9177  
Birdandbee.ca  
Small organic urban seed house.

**BC Eco Seed Co-op**  
bseedcoop@gmail.com  
www.bccoseedcoop.com  
BC-based producer co-operative of 17 seed growers providing BC-grown ecological and certified organic seed — vegetables, herbs, flowers and grains. From packets to bulk quantities, the BC Eco Seed Co-op has seeds for all growers.

**BC’s Wild Heritage Plants**  
604-858-5141  
www.bcwildheritage.com  
Native shrubs, ferns, bulbs and ground covers.

**Blazing Star Wildflower Seed Company**  
Box 382, Aberdeen SK S0K 0A0  
306-253-4219  
growwildflowers.ca  
Wildflower and tomato seeds.

**Botanus Inc.**  
PO Box 3184, Langley BC, V3A 4R5  
1-800-672-3413 / 604-513-0100  
service@botanus.com  
www.botanus.com  
Botanus is one of Canada’s most trusted mail-order suppliers of fine horticultural products including flower bulbs, perennials, roses and gardening accessories.

**Boughen Nurseries**  
Box 1955, Nipawin SK S0E 1E0  
306-862-5313  
www.boughennurseries.com  
Hardy fruit and nut trees.

**Boundary Garlic**  
Box 273, Midway BC V0H 1M0  
250-449-2152  
garlicfarm.ca  
Certified organic garlic for seed.

**Breck’s Bulbs**  
935 Graham Road  
West Lorne ON N0L 2P0  
800-644-5505  
brecksbulbs.ca  
Flower bulbs.

**Brooks Gardens Peonies**  
6219 Topaz Street NE, Brooks OR  
brooksgardens@gmail.com  
www.brooksgardens.com  
Peony roots for Canadian gardeners, landscapes and cut flower growers.

**Brother Nature Organic Seeds**  
1159 Wychbury Ave., Victoria BC V9A 5L1  
250-661-2255  
www.brothenature.ca  
Organic, open-pollinated vegetable seed.

**Canadian Prairie Garlic Escape**  
306-736-8373  
www.saskgarlic.ca  
Chemical-free seed garlic.

**Casey’s Heirloom Tomatoes of Airdrie**  
Airdrie AB  
www.casesheirloomtomatoes.ca  
Seeds from open-pollinated tomatoes.

**Chiltern Seeds**  
Cromwell Battle Barns,  
114 Preston Crowmarsh  
Wallingford OX10 6SL England  
chilternseeds.co.uk  
Seeds for vegetables, herbs and ornamentals.

**Choked Up**  
Salmon Arm BC  
www.chokedup.ca  
Jerusalem Artichokes.

**Cochrane Family Seeds**  
5324 Hwy 289  
Saint Marys ON  
902-671-2378  
cochranefamilyseeds.com  
Certified organic, heirloom vegetable, herb and flower seed.

**Corn Hill Nursery Ltd.**  
2700 Rte. 890, Corn Hill NB E4Z 1M2  
506-756-3635  
www.cornhillnursery.com  
Hardy fruit trees, roses and perennials.

**Cowlitz River Dahlias**  
100 Chapman Rd., Castle Rock WA, 98611  
360-751-1280  
teresa@dahlias4u.com  
dahlias4u.com  
Specializing in unusual and hard-to-find dahlias. Tubers shipped to Canada and worldwide (where allowed).

**Creekside Growers Inc.**  
692 Windham Rd. 11  
Delhi ON, N4B 2W5  
905-746-9253  
www.creeksidegrowers.ca  
Specializing in the cultivation and propagation of dahlia tubers, we ship Canada-wide and can accommodate any size order. We serve both the individual and wholesale market.

**D&H Newman**  
Ripley ON  
dandhnewman.ca/garlic  
50+ varieties of organically grown heritage garlic.

**DDC Dahlias**  
4558 Maple Guard Dr.  
Bowser BC, V0R 1G0  
1-778-653-9473  
ddandc@shaw.ca  
www.ddcdahlias.com  
Providing show-quality dahlias and many are our own originations — we sell our tubers in the spring so watch for dates on the website.

**De Dell Seeds Incorporated**  
7095 Century Drive  
Melbourne ON, N0J 1T0  
519-264-2676  
www.deddellseeds.com  
Non-GMO corn hybrids. Celebrating our 20th anniversary.

**Eagle Creek Seed Potatoes**  
Box 70, Bowden AB, T0M 0K0  
877-224-3939  
Seedpotatoes.ca  
Seed potatoes.

**Eagleridge Seeds**  
219 Eagleridge Drive  
Saltspring Island BC V8K 2L1  
250-537-5677  
www.eagleridge seeds.com  
Sustainably grown rare and endangered heirloom seeds including vegetables, herbs, flowers and tomatoes. A living seed bank for endangered seeds.

**Edgebrook Farm Curated Seed Company**  
5130 6th Line Essa  
Cookstown ON, L0L 1L0  
416.522.7229  
support@edgebrookfarm.ca  
edgebrookfarm.ca  
With over 1200 varieties of flower, herb and vegetable seed, we specialize in tried and true blooms that provide long stems and long vase life for the professional cut flower farmer and passionate home gardener alike. Wholesale quantities available.

**Edible Antiques**  
11 Spencer Street  
Picton ON K0K 2T0  
www.edibleantiques.ca  
Open-pollinated, heirloom seeds.
Ellenberger Organic Farm
1607 The Ridge Rd
Coe Hill ON, K0L 1P0
613-337-8824
www.ellenbergerorganicfarm.com
Certified organic, certified seed potatoes.

Eternal Seed
2309 Zilinsky Road
Powell River BC V8A 0N8
604-487-1304
eternalseed.ca
Seeds and plants for vegetables, flowers and herbs.

Eureka Garlic
6 Rte 233 RR 6, Kensington PEI, C0B 1M0
902-836-5180
al@eurekagarlic.ca
Seed garlic.

Evergreen Seed
Various sales reps in Ontario.
evergreenseed.ca
Forage and cover crop seed.

Ferme écomaraîchère La croisée des cultures
229 place du Platin
Sainte-Claire QC G0R 2V0
www.croiseedescultures.com
Open-pollinated seeds for short seasons. Certified Organic.

Ferncliff Gardens
35344 McEwan Ave, Mission BC, V2V 6R4
604-826-2447
info@ferncliffgardens.com
www.ferncliffgardens.com
Dahlia specialist — over 150 varieties. Top quality. 2020 is our 100th year!

Florabunda Seeds
Box 38, Keene ON K0L 2G0
705-295-6440
florabundaseeds.com
Florabunda Seeds is dedicated to preserving old species of flowers, vegetables and herbs. Most seeds are organic; all are untreated, non-GMO and non-hybrid. Family-owned business.

Floret
PO Box 281, Mount Vernon WA, 98273
support@floretflowers.com
www.floretflowers.com
Specialty cut flower seeds.

Fraser’s Thimble Farms
175 Arbutus Rd.
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 1A3
250-537-5788
www.thimblefarms.com
Pacific Northwest native plants.

Full Circle Seeds
PO Box 807 Sooke, BC V9Z 1H8
250-642-3671
fullcircleseeds.com
Locally grown, organic, open-pollinated seed.

Fungi Perfecti
PO Box 7634, Olympia WA 98507
800-780-9126
fungi.com
Fungal spawn and accessories.

Gardens Plus
136 County Road 4
Peterborough ON K9L 1V6
705-742-5918
www.gardensplus.ca
Hosta and easy-care perennials.

General Seed Company
Various dealers
generalseedcompany.ca
Forage, corn and cover crop seed.

Golden Acres Farm
2579 Line 47, RR #1, Gads Hill ON N0K 1J0
519-656-3152
goldenacresfarm@hotmail.com
Certified organic seed garlic.

Good Earth Farms
7636 Island Hwy., Black Creek BC V9J 1G6
250-337-2261
goodearthfarms@shaw.ca
www.goodearthfarms.ca
Amazing naturally grown open-pollinated vegetable, herb and flower seed; 100 per cent grown by us since 2000. 70 varieties. See catalog on website. Bulk available.

Golden Bough Tree Farm
Box 29, 900 Napanee Rd.
Marlbank ON, K0K 2L0
www.goldenboughtrees.ca
Bare-root trees and shrubs for mail order or pick up.

Green Barn Farm
2103 blvd. Perrot
Notre-Dame-de-l’Ile-Perrot QC, J7V 8P4
514-951-9757
greenbarnfarm.ca
Fruit plants and seeds.

Greta’s Organic Gardens
399 River Rd., Ottawa ON K1V 1C9
613-521-8648
seeds-organic.com
Certified organic seed for vegetables and herbs.

Grimo Nut Nursery
979 Lakeshore Rd, RR 3
Niagara-on-the-Lake ON
LOS 1JO
See website for seed sales.
www.grimonut.com
Hardy nut trees.

Grim’s Organic Gourmet Garlic
Surrey BC
Gourmetgarlicfarm.ca
Seed garlic.

Grow Wild Native Plant Nursery
3784 Highway #7
Omemee ON, K0L 2W0
416-735-7490
nativeplantnursery.ca
Native plants.

Halifax Seed Company
5860 Kane St., Box 8026 STN A
Halifax NS B3K 5L8
902-454-7456
halifaxseed.ca
Vegetable, herb and flower seed.

Hardy Fruit Trees Nursery
5094 Route 125
Rawdon QC J0K 1S0
514-418-4109
www.hardyfruittrees.ca
Saplings for fruit and nut trees.

Harmonic Herbs
RR #3, Barrhead AB T7N 1N4
www.harmonicherbs.com
Offering gardeners seed for the finest vegetables, herbs and flowers you can grow in short season climates.
Hawthorn Farm Organic Seeds
RR 3, 5961 5th Line
Palmerston ON, N0G 2P0
519-343-3375
www.hawthornfarm.ca
Certified organic open-pollinated seeds.

Helmers Organic Farm
Pemberton BC
604-894-6618
helmersorganic.com
Organic, certified virus-free seed potatoes.

Heritage Harvest Seed
Box 279, Carman MB R0G 0J0
204-745-6489
heritageharvestseed.com
Rare and endangered heirloom/heritage vegetables, herbs, and grain with over 700 varieties. The farm uses organic methods; 95 per cent of seed grown on Canadian farms.

Heritage Seed & Produce
192 Charlie Lane
Westport ON, K0G 1X0
613-273-2948
heritageseaddandproduce.com
Heirloom seeds.

High Mowing Organic Seeds
76 Quarry Road
Wolcott VT 05680 USA
802-472-6174
highmowingseeds.com
Seeds for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Hole’s Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd
101 Riel Drive
St. Albert AB T8N 3X4
780-419-6800
Seeds, saplings and plants.

Hope Seeds
Box 460, 324 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal NS B0S1A0
902-286-4673
www.hopeseed.com
Organic, open-pollinated seed for flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Horizon Seeds
Various dealers
1-855-983-7255
horizonseeds.ca
Field crop seeds.

Howard Dill Enterprises
RR 1 400 College Road
Windsor NS, B0N 2T0
902-798-2728
howarddill.com
Pumpkin seed.

Incredible Seed Company
RR1 Pleasantville NS B0R 1G0
888-851-6620
www.incredibleseeds.ca
More than 400 varieties of high-quality, open-pollinated vegetable seed as well as seed for trees, edible flowers, permaculture plants.

Jardin des vie-la-joie
447 17e rang
Sainte-Agathe-de-Lotbinière QC G0S 2A0
438-888-3032
vielajoie.com
Medicinal, ornamental and vegetable seeds.

Jeremy Schuurman “The Dahlia Expert”
Flamborough Flowers LTD
906 6th Concession West
Millgrove ON, L8B 1M9
289-439-3084
sales@thedahliaexpert.com
Dahlia tubers for your farm garden! Shipped across Canada in time for spring planting.

John Boy Farms
Manitoba
204-882-2751
www.GarlicSeed.ca
Garlic.

Johnny’s Selected Seeds
955 Benton Ave
Winslow ME 04901
johnnyseeds.com
Helping growers succeed by providing superior seeds, tools, service and information.

Kitchen Table Seed House
602 Hwy 95
Wolfe Island ON, K0H 2Y0
www.kitchentablesseedhouse.ca
613-385-8569

La ferme coopérative Tourne-Sol
1035 ch. St-Dominique
Les Cèdres QC, J1T 1P5
450-452-4271
boutique.fermetournesol.qc.ca
Certified organic vegetables and flower seeds; garlic.

La Finquita
Wallace NS
www.lafinquita.ca
Seeds for wild plants.

La Société des plantes
207 rang de l’Embrarras
Kamouraska QC G0L 1M0
418-492-2493
www.lasocietedesplantes.com
Organic heirloom seeds.

Laughing Swan Farm Seeds
Near Kamloops, BC
www.laughingswanfarm.com
Award-winning tomatoes, veggies and herbs.

La ferme coopérative Tourne-Sol
1035 ch. St-Dominique
Les Cèdres QC, J1T 1P5
450-452-4271
boutique.fermetournesol.qc.ca
Certified organic vegetables and flower seeds; garlic.

Le Jardin de Julie
Box 1191
Rimouski (Bic) QC, G0L 1B0
Order online:
www.jardindejulie.com
info@jardindejulie.com
Heirloom seeds for vegetables, herbs and flowers, naturally grown.

Le potager ornemental de Catherine
678 Rang Bois Franc
St Apollinaire QC, G0S 2E0
www.potagerornamental.com
Seeds for open-pollinated vegetables.

Les Jardins de l’Ecoumène
2855 ch. de l’Écoumène
Saint-Damien QC, J0K 2E0
450-835-1149
www.ecoumene.com
Organic open-pollinated vegetable, grain and herb seeds.
Les Semences du Batteux
Lévis QC
www.lessemencesdubatteux.ca
lessemencesdubatteaux@gmail.com
Seeds for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Lindenberg Seeds
803 Princess Ave.
Brandon MB R7A 0P5
204-727-0575
lindenbergseeds.ca
Flower and vegetable seeds.

Matchbox Garden and Seed Co.
1350 Haldimand Hwy 54
Caledonia ON N3W 1V9
226-920-4974
www.matchboxgarden.ca
Certified organic seeds for vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

Mapple Farm
129 Beech Hill Road
Weldon NB E4H 4N5
mapplefarm.com
Seeds and plant stock for interesting edibles.

McKenzie Seeds
1000 Parker Boulevard
Brandon MB, R7A 6E1
204-571-7500 / 1-800-665-6340
www.mckenzieseeds.com
Founded in 1896 in Brandon, Manitoba, McKenzie Seeds is Canada’s largest packager and distributor of packet seeds and lawn and garden products.

Metchosin Farm seed
542 Wootton Rd., Metchosin BC V9C 3Z4
metchosinfarm.ca
Locally grown, adapted & open-pollinated seeds

Morgan County Seeds
18761 Kelsay Rd., Barnett MO 65011-3009
573-378-2655
MorganCountySeeds.com
Organic vegetable and herb seeds.

Mountain Grove Seed Company
Parham ON
www.mountaingroveseedcompany.com
613-876-8383
Organically grown, open-pollinated vegetable, herb and flower seeds. Since 2008.

Mumm’s Sprouting Seeds
PO Box 80, 118 1st Avenue West
Parkside SK, S0J 2A0
306-747-2935
www.sprouting.com
Certified organic seed for sprouting.

Naramata Seed Company
5865 North Naramata Rd.
Naramata BC V0H 1N1
www.naramataseedco.ca
Heritage vegetable seeds.

Natural Seed Bank
www.seed-bank.ca
Non-GMO, untreated seeds.

Norton Naturals
Eastern Ontario
www.nortonnaturals.com
Planting stock for perennial vegetables.

Norwegian Creek Farm
Box 45, Midway BC V0H 1M0
www.norwegiancreekfarm.ca
Certified organic garlic bulbs and bulbils. Over 75 varieties, well adapted to Canada’s varied climate. Grown only on the family farm.

Ontario Seed Company (OSC)
Box 7, Waterloo, ON N2J 3Z6
519-886-0557
oscseeds.com
Seeds for vegetables, flowers, forages, cover crops, grasses, native plants, trees and wildflowers. Sells Aimers certified organic seed and native custom seed mixes. Fifth-generation family business.

Opulent
226-678-5368
opulent.ca
Seeds, plants and fungal spawn.

Parkland Peonies
Adam Yakabuskie
235 Prestwick Mews SE, Calgary AB, T2Z 3X7
1-403-819-3881
parklandpeonies@shaw.ca
www.parklandpeonies.com
Featuring 500 varieties of peony. We sell peony roots, peony cut flowers and martagon lilies.

Peony World
2221 Bloor St., Bowmanville ON, L1C 1L7
905-623-4874
peonyworld@hotmail.ca
PeoniesFromTheField.com
Bare peony roots shipped in the fall.
Perfectly Perennial Herbs and Seeds
Box 675, Pouch Cove NL, A0A 3L0
www.perfectlyperennial.ca
Seeds for perennial and self-seeding vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Prairie Garden Seeds
Box 2758, Humboldt SK S0K 2A0
306-682-1475
www.prseeds.ca
Open-pollinated vegetable, flower and grains.

Quality Seeds Ltd.
8400 Huntington Road
Vaughan ON L4L 1A5
905-856-7333 or 1-800-856-7333
qualityseeds.ca
Forage, turf, cover crop and wildflower seeds.

Quality Seeds West
464 Riverside Road
Abbotsford BC V2S 7M1
604-574-7333/1-888-770-7333 (BC/AB)
support@qualityseedswest.ca
www.qualityseedswest.ca
Forage, turf and reclamation seed.

Railway Creek Farm
2601 Cooper Rd., Madoc ON, K0K 2K0
613-813-3918
www.railwaycreekfarms.com
Garlic.

Rainbow Seeds
5763 King St., Rte 114
Riverside-Albert NB E4H-4A7
506-882-0913
rainbowseeds.ca
Non-GMO seeds.

Rasta Creek Farm
1871 Trinity Valley Rd. Lumby BC V0E 2G4
250-547-2077
www.rasacreekfarm.com
50+ varieties of seed garlic.

RavenSong Seeds & Herbals
Box 169, Saanichton BC V8M 2C3
ravensongseeds.com
Medicinal herb seeds.

Rebecca’s Garden
British Columbia
250-727-3788
rebsgarden@shaw.ca
Certified organic heirloom seeds.

Red Lion Farm
Box 473, 8997 North Highway 6
Salmo BC V0G 1Z0
250-509-2300
www.redlionorganic.com
Certified organic seed garlic.

Renee’s Garden Seed
6060 Graham Hill Road
Felton CA, 95018
1-888-880-7228
Renesgard.com
We specialize in vegetable, herb and flower packets, especially for kitchen gardeners, chosen for flavour and productivity, including a full line of organics and diverse heirloom flower varieties.

Rhora’s Nut Farm & Nursery
RR 1, 33083 Wills Rd.
Wainfleet ON, L0S 1V0
905-899-3508
nuttrees.com
Edible Pine nut trees and other nut trees, hybrid oak trees.

Richters Herbs
357 Hwy 47, Goodwood ON L0C 1A0
905-640-6677, 800-668-4372
richters.com
Seeds and plants for herbs and vegetables.

Select Seedling Nursery Ltd.
Box 92A RR# 3
Saskatoon SK S7K3J6
306-978-1940
seedling@lshore.com
Saskatoon berries, shelterbelts, budding understock.

Semences du Portage
3476 rue Ste-Catherine Est.
Montréal QC, H1W 2E2
438-384-4341
semencesduportage.com
Vegetables, medicinal herbs and flowers.

Siloam Orchards
(Slabtown Cider Co.)
Uxbridge ON
Siloamorchards.com
Heirloom fruit trees.

Silver Creek Nursery
2343 Gerber Rd.
Wellesley ON N0B 2T0
519-804-6060
silvercreeknursery.ca
From apples to apricots, from pears to peaches, from quince to cherries, bare root fruit trees for home gardeners and small orchards. No synthetic fertilizers or pesticides used.

Soggy Creek Seed
c/o Piebird Bed & Breakfast/FarmStay
113 Chapman’s Landing Rd.
Nipissing Village ON, P0H 1W0
705-724-1144
Seeds.soggycreek.com
Re-named heirloom seeds for vegetables and herbs.

Solana Seeds
17 place Leger
Repentigny QC J6A 5N7
solanaeeds.netfirms.com
Vegetable, flower and exotic plant seeds.

Somerville Seedlings
5884 County Road 13, Box 1445
Everett ON L0M 1J0
1-877-708-7337
treeseedlings.com
Seedlings for trees and bushes.

Stokes Seeds
296 Collier Rd S, Box 10
Thorold ON, L2V 5E9
800-396-9238
stokesseeds.com
Vegetable, herb, flower seed.
Sunshine Farm
2225 Saucier Rd, Kelowna BC V1W 4B8
250-448-1826
sunshinefarm.net
Certified organic seeds for heirloom and unusual vegetables, herbs, grain and flowers. Home to Vocational Services for Adults, Sunshine Farm aspires to epitomize a sustainable family farm which also serves its community.

Swan Island Dahlias
PO Box 700, Canby OR 97013
503-266-7711 / 1-800-410-6540 (US only)
dahlias.com
info@dahlias.com
The largest grower of dahlias in the United States with over 370 varieties.

T&T Seeds Ltd.
Box 1710, Winnipeg MB R3C 3P6
204-895-9962 or 204-895-9964
ttseeds.com
Seeds or rootstock for vegetables, shrubs and fruit trees.

Tasty Acres
4360-30th St NE, Salmon Arm BC V1E 2A3
250-833-4821
tastyacres.ca & tasty acres on Facebook
Certified organic nursery for edible & fruit bearing plants: strawberries, asparagus, raspberries, aronia (chokeberry), blueberries, rhubarb, blackcurrants, blackberries, gooseberries, goji berry and horseradish.

Terra Edibles
Box 164, 535 Ashley St., Foxboro ON, K0K 2B0
613-961-0654
terraedibles.ca
Organically grown seeds for heirloom vegetables and herbs. Also lavender products, wild-crafted teas and gardening books. Visit our shop, the Village Green in Foxboro.

The Cutting Veg
Jackson’s Point ON L0E 1L0
647-388-7444
www.thecuttingveg.com
Organic garlic.

The Market Garden
810 Catherine St.
Victoria BC V9A 3V1
250-384-7023
themarketgarden.ca
Organic heirloom seeds.

The Seed Company by E.W. Gaze
138 Harbour Drive
St. John’s NL, A1C 5K8
709-722-4590
teseedcompany.ca
Seeds for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

TreeTime.ca
3464 78 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB, T6B 2X9
1-844-873-3700
Woody plants, native plants and shrubs.

Unicorn Blooms
528 Weller St.
Peterborough ON
contact@unicornblooms.com
unicornblooms.com
Offering wholesale Italian Ranunculus and Mistral Anemones, Colibri poppy seeds, sweet pea seeds, dahlia tubers, specialty fall bulbs including tulips and narcissus.

Veseys Seeds Ltd.
Box 9000, Charlottetown PEI C1A 8K6
800-363-7333
veseys.com
Since 1939, Veseys have provided the gardeners of Canada with an extensive selection of vegetable, flower, herb and organic seeds.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co
300 Park Ave
Warminster PA 18974
Burpee.com
Vegetable, herb and flower seeds.

W.H. Perron
(Dominion Seed House)
2914 Curé-Labelle Blvd.
Laval QC, H7P 5R9
450-682-9071/1-800-723-9071
www.dominion-seed-house.com
Seeds for vegetables, vegetables and herbs. Mail orders only.

Warwick Dahlias
1672 Constitution Road
Black Creek BC, V9J 1G2
250-337-8985
warwickdahlias@gmail.com
warwickdahlias.com
A small cut flower farm specializing in dahlia blooms and dahlia tubers.

West Coast Seeds
5300 34B Ave.
Delta BC V4L 2P1
604-952-8820/1-888-804-8820
Untreated and non-GMO seeds for 1,100+ varieties of vegetables, fruit, herbs, cover crops, sprouting, microgreens and wildflowers. Committed to sustainable agriculture. Supplying customers with the freshest, fattest, high-germination seed available.

Whiffletree Farm and Nursery Inc.
6987 8th Line West
Elora ON, N0B 1S0
519-669-1349
info@whiffletree.ca
www.whiffletreefarmandnursery.ca
Wholesale (and retail) cold hardy and disease resistant fruit and nut trees in Ontario.

Wild Garden Seed
Box 1509, Philomath OR 97370
541-929-4068
wildgardenseed.com
Certified organic seed for vegetables, herbs, flowers and grain.

Wildrose Heritage Seed Company
Box 355, Station Main
Lethbridge AB, T1J 3Y7
403-380-0098
www.wildroseheritageseed.com
Vegetable, herb and flower seed.

William Dam Seeds
279 Hwy 8, RR1
Dundas ON, L9H 5E1
905-628-6641
damseeds.com
Seeds for vegetables, flowers, cover crops and small fruit.

Wylie Mycologicals Ltd.
160 South Bass Lake Road
Georgian Bluffs ON, N0H 2T0
519-534-1570
www.wyliemycologicals.ca
wylie@interlog.com
Specialty mushroom grow blocks.

Celestial Planting Calendar
Informative articles
Biodynamic recommendations
Plant & harvest by sun, moon & stars
earthhavenlearning.ca
Seed saving libraries and networks

Atlantic Canada Regional Seed Bank
Truro NS

Canadian Seed Library
www.acornorganic.org/seedsecurity/bank

Seeds of Diversity
1-12 Dupont St W., Waterloo ON N2L 2X6
226-600-7782
seeds.ca/diversity/seed-library

Garden Organic
Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, Coventry, Warwickshire CV8 3LG UK
024-7630-3517
gardenorganic.org.uk

International Seed Saving Institute
PO Box 4619, Ketchum ID, 83350
Seedsave.org/issi/issi.html

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman
Box 337, La Honda, California 94020-0337
USA
jlhudsonseeds.net

Just Food
2391 Pepin Court, Ottawa ON, K1B 4Z3
613-824-7771
https://justfood.ca/seed-saving-projects-and-events/

PEI Seed Alliance
peiseedalliance.com

Public libraries across Canada
Ask your local library if there is a seed library in your regional library system.

Saskatoon Seed Library
www.saskatoonseedlibrary.ca

Seeds of Diversity Canada
1-12 Dupont St W., Waterloo ON N2L 2X6
226-600-7782
www.seeds.ca

Seed Savers Exchange
3094 North Winn Rd., Decorah IA, 52101
USA
563-382-5990
Seedsavers.org

The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security
USC Canada’s Seeds of Survival program in Canada.
Seedsecurity

Looking for a Christmas gift?
Check out our selection of great books on page 40-41 of this issue!
Cut flowers: what your farm needs this year
(And why Canada is a great place to get started)

This year’s Seed Buying Guide features an expanded roster of businesses that specialize in cut flower growing materials: seeds, bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes that yield plants whose stems can be removed and sold, often for decorative use.

Many of these plants will be familiar to home gardeners, but they are also an increasingly attractive business opportunity for farmers. Growing cut flowers can diversify farm income, attract pollinators, enhance property appeal and reach a market hungry for an alternative to blooms jetted in from abroad or grown with energy and chemically intensive methods.

Despite the challenging temperatures and short growing seasons that plague parts of this country, Canada’s cut-flower industry is evolving to make that business opportunity more accessible to small-scale growers.

Louise Warner is owner of Unicorn Blooms, (a Peterborough-based, wholesale supplier of cut-flower materials that you can find listed in this issue), board member of Canadian Flowers Week and owner of flower-growing company Wild Imagination. She has seen significant shifts in the Canadian cut-flower community that make it more feasible for new and seasoned farmers to make money. For instance, the combination of more environmentally-conscious consumers, low-cost Internet marketing and e-commerce solutions and florist preference for a “wilder, romantic, garden-style look” have created more opportunities than ever for small-scale flower growers to find a market for their product.

In addition to these demand-based shifts, Canadian farmers also benefit from supply-side growth thanks to the business savvy of suppliers like Louise. In her case, she was frustrated that the world’s largest producers of specialty flower varieties would often only ship to the largest greenhouse companies. She established Unicorn Blooms to help smaller-scale growers access the lucrative product.

“When I started the company, at the time with Heather Henson of Boreal Blooms in Cold Lake, Alberta, we knew many flower growers across the country were looking for these specialty varieties and faced the same problem that we did; (We were) too small to independently import these items that we felt were necessary to set our businesses apart. We really needed specialty product to convince customers that local flowers were worth seeking out and paying a premium for,” she says.

Now, Unicorn Blooms provides a Canadian wholesale source for prized Italian Ranunculus and anemone corms, Colibri poppy seeds, as well as various specialty tulips, dahlias, and narcissus that Louise imports to meet the demand for on-trend colours and forms. It means that Canadian producers can approach florists, designers, and flower lovers with high-quality, premium blooms grown locally. Louise notes that this trend is helping establish a more robust “cut-flower buying culture” in Canada by “showing people flowers and foliage they have never seen before.”

“Be realistic about what you can handle growing well and who you can sell it to. Focus on a few crops that are high value . . . then assess what needs to be added or dropped from your mix.”

If 2020 is the right year to test growing cut flowers on your farm, you’ll find plenty of good places to start in the Seed Buying Guide.

-LJ
SURVEY RESULTS
Seller tips for success

We asked seed producers from across the country for advice. Their responses below

ASSEMBLED BY LILY JACKSON

Plan!

“By getting your order in early (and we mean before March!) there’s a much better chance that you will get what you want and your plants will be healthier and happier. The earlier the nursery stock is in the ground, the better it will establish itself in the first year. Also, the selection is better when ordering during the winter months.”

— Silver Creek Nursery (ON)

“Figure out what you want to do and get the right seed for that purpose. [...] Price should be the last consideration (“you get what you pay for”)—a perennial field lasts much longer than the memory of a cheap purchase price.”

— Quality Seeds West (BC)

“When growing a new crop for the first time, it’s best to choose at least three varieties of seed for planting. [...] By choosing more than one variety, each grower can see which ones do best for them personally. Good planning is absolutely key to a successful season. Making sure all perennial weeds are eliminated, that there is a clean seedbed free from sticks or stones and that the soil is loose with good fertility is key.”

— John Boy Farms (MB)

Understand your region

(but be prepared for changing conditions)

“The more you know about the size of your plot, the zone you are in, desired colour palette, the percentage of sun/shade and anything particular about your growing conditions, the better equipped you are to select the amount of seed and varieties that will provide the best outcome.”

— Edgebrook Farm Curated Seed Company (ON)

“Purchase enough seeds for your purposes and remember to always store them in a cool, dark, dry location to ensure viability. Most single regular packets on the market today are geared towards single planting for the home gardener. So double up on your favourite beets, carrots, onions and greens!”

— Eagleridge Seeds (BC)

“Plan and educate yourself before planting! Hardiness, disease-resistance, rootstock, space, soil type, drainage, pollination, sun and shade are all elements that need to be understood and checked before planting.”

— Hardy Fruit Tree Nursery (QC)

“Start planning early (December or January) and order seeds as early as possible to give time for back ups if seed does not come or comes late.”

— BC Eco Seed Co-op (BC)

“Planning: not super sexy but so important. Thinking what you want to grow and what would work best in your space. Also planning the fall beforehand, testing soil especially Ph and amending with lime, turning, mulching. It all makes the spring go smoother.”

— Good Earth Farms (BC)

“Some of the most important things to consider [are] your growing zone and sun light. If [you are] in zone 3–4 you do not want to be purchasing [plants that thrive in] 5, 6.”

— Gardens Plus (ON)
“Look for locally adapted, cold tolerant varieties, which are often the best suited to growing conditions in Canada. [ . . . ] There are thousands of regional types of each plant you might want to grow. Many of these are heritage seeds, or “land races,” that have been grown in a particle area for decades. These types have adapted to local conditions, becoming even more reliable and productive in a particular area.”

– Perfectly Perennial Herbs and Seeds (Nfld)

“It is important to consider the source of your growing advice, especially online. Falling in love with a flower or plant that grows well on Vancouver Island may not give you the best results in northern Ontario. We would all love to be in the “Goldilocks Zone . . . not too hot . . . not too dry . . . but the reality is we all have some kind of concession that must be included in our growing plan to have a full, luscious garden.”

– Edgebrook Farm Curated Seed Company (ON)

“One thing we would want people to know about gardening is that it is important to watch the weather and monitor your soil conditions. As we garden in a changing climate, we can’t rely on how we “always used to grow.” Seeds are dependant on soil temperature and moisture content for their best success. This may mean that Victoria Day weekend is not the gauge by which we seed or plant our garden. Our experience over the past 10 years is that every year is different!”

– William Dam Seeds Ltd. (ON)

“The biggest thing that can be done for a successful season, beyond maintaining healthy soil and leaving enough space for air between plants, is to plant an assortment of the same vegetable. Every year the weather is different and we never know what to expect. I have found there are always some varieties that do better than others in any given year. [ . . . ] Using seeds that have been acclimatized to local growing conditions, and have been grown in your area, improves performance of plants as well.”

– Mountain Grove Seed Company (ON)

Keep records

“Keep records of all your seeding dates with notes on how well the crops did. Push the edges of the calendar to spread your growing season out.”

– Full Circle Seeds (BC)

“The thing that I tell gardeners is most important is to keep good notes of their gardening activities. While they think they may remember what they did when, in the end it all runs together. Those notes can be very valuable.”

– Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (MO, USA)

“Growing most veggie and flower plants from seed is relatively easy, but there are some plants that are very tricky. [ . . . ] Make sure you educate yourself before ordering these seeds or you may be disappointed in your results.”

– Green Barn Farm (QC)

“Taking the time to choose varieties adapted to your climatic zone (number of growing days at maturity) and having the patience to start planting at the right time (not too early) are my two best tips to kick off your gardening season.”

– Le Jardin de Julie (QC)

“The most important factor is the quality of the [garlic] seed. Seed garlic should be disease and pest free, have no marks of blemishes and preferably have the close wrappers intact.”

– The Cutting Veg (ON)

“One piece of advice is for seed customers interested in the growing trend of medicinal and wild plants. These seeds often need special treatments in order to “wake up” and have a good germination rate. As a seed seller, our main goal is to guide the customers properly in growing their chosen plants. To do so, we add as much detailed information as possible on the seed packets concerning the conditions and treatments required to grow each specific plant. To ensure success, our best advice (one often overlooked) is to strongly encourage plant lovers to carefully read that information before sowing any seed!”

– Jardin des vie-la-joie (QC)

“When to plant is also key. Plant when cooler, less sunny part of the day and water in well. Never during a heat wave.”

– Gardens Plus (ON)
“By talking with your seed seller or other farmers, plant the seed “properly” (i.e. not too deep, into moist soil)”

– Quality Seeds West (BC)

“Feed your soil. We all want big, beautiful and bountiful plants. It all starts with healthy, thriving soil. Lots of compost and good crop rotation are always reliable techniques to improve soil health. We also avoid tilling and use deep mulch methods to suppress weeds and retain moisture.”

– Matchbox Garden (ON)

**Plant for your personal enjoyment**

“Have diversity in what you grow, especially if you are aiming to feed yourself. [. . .] Choose what you like to eat to give you stamina to see it through to seed!”

– BC Eco Seed Co-op (BC)

“The most common mistake I see new gardeners make is to get too big too fast. They plant too much to care for properly, become overwhelmed and then give up. I encourage gardeners to start small and build as they go.”

– Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (MO, USA)

**Other**

“The best advice is to follow the growing instructions we provide very closely and email or phone questions.”

– Wylie Mycologicals Ltd (ON)

“Our customers for fresh market tomatoes ask us why our tomatoes taste so good. We subscribe to some of the same methods as our Okanagan vineyards to help express terroir. After establishing a good healthy vigorous plant from the start of the season, we withhold water in mid August to encourage the plants to send their roots deeper into the subsoil to pull out discrete flavours from minerals and micronutrients. All fruit set will ripen and the plant will produce more sugars to protect it from drying out too much to produce seed (fruit). This helps to produce the sensual luscious flavour so characteristic of heritage or heirloom tomatoes.”

– Sunshine Farm (BC)

“The most common mistakes people make when buying fruit trees are:

1. Not taking the time to plan and prepare properly.
2. Purchasing tree varieties or species that are not hardy enough or not adapted to grow well in their area.
3. Not paying attention to strong and hardy rootstock or good sourcing when purchasing grafted trees.
4. Taking the cheapest option and being disappointed later when the tree does not survive.
5. Ignoring pollination and ending up with fruit trees that cannot produce fruit due to lack of pollination.”

– Hardy Fruit Tree Nursery (QC)

“1. Mushrooms are fungi, not plants. They grow via a mycelial network, cultivated through mushroom cultures. Thus the grow kits are live cultures which need lots of air movement to take in the oxygen they require and release the CO2 and spores. They also need light and humidity since mushrooms are 85 per cent water.

2. The best advice is to follow the growing instructions we provide very closely and email or phone questions. Mistakes are made when folk think they can interpret the kits’ needs. For instance, putting the kit in a corner or the basement deprives it of air movement and fruiting may not occur.

3. Industry trends support home growing for freshness and medicinal purposes. Lions Mane has been extremely popular because of the identified link between consumption and the prevention of Alzheimer’s and dementia.

4. It is best to order a kit or two at a time so that instructions can be followed and observations made for separate types. Since we suggest growing on the kitchen counter, space may be at a premium. We also suggest cooking each type separately for flavour identification.”

– Wylie Mycologicals Ltd. (ON)
Seedlings sales for fun and profit
Five small farmers share their insights on growing and selling seedlings

BY LISA TIMPF

There’s a lot of upside for the small farmer thinking about venturing into seedling sales. CSA or market garden farmers may already be starting seedlings for their own use, and seedling sales can build on that foundation. In addition, they provide cash flow prior to the main growing season, and they’re a venue for re-connecting to the customers after the winter.

Timing is everything

Hanna Jacobs, owner of Matchbox Garden Seed Co. near Caledonia, Ontario, notes that timing is critical when planting your seeds. “It’s really important to find that sweet spot when planting, so every plant you take to market is at its best,” she notes. Because Jacobs attends a number of seedling sales, as well as fulfilling contracts for wholesale customers, she needs seedlings in prime condition for dates spread over a long time frame. She staggers her planting time to ensure seedlings are at the optimum point in their growth when they go to the target venue.

Though she has only one seedling sale date to worry about, Angie Koch, owner and farm manager at Fertile Ground Farm in St. Agatha, Ontario, recognizes the need to have plants at different stages for different purposes. Although Fertile Ground transplants seedlings into the CSA garden around the same time as their annual seedling sale, Koch offsets the planting time of the plants destined for the two purposes. She prefers smaller, easier-to-handle seedlings for the planting into the CSA garden, while her seedling sale customers want to see more established plant.

The medium is the message

Selecting the right growing medium, notes Jacobs, is important. Jacobs prepares a blend that incorporates an ocean mix, sheep manure, and peat in equal parts. She finds that a lot of mixes are too light or peaty for her liking. She’s pleased with the ocean mix, which she gets from an East Coast supplier, noting that after she started using it, “I couldn’t get over how much better the plants looked.”

Marcelle Paulin, co-owner and co-founder of Sleepy G Farm in Pass Lake, Ontario, agrees that soil is important. “You should get the best quality potting medium you can afford,” she says. Though Sleepy G hasn’t yet ventured into the sales end of seedlings, it’s on the docket for next year. Still, since the start of their CSA operation 10 years ago, Sleepy G has grown tens of thousands of seedlings for their own use, so they have a good understanding of the ins and outs of the growing process. Paulin uses a purchased potting mix, which she fortifies with inputs like kelp, green sand, rock dust, and alfalfa meal.

Koch uses a local organic greenhouse’s peat-based mix that contains organic amendments, and applies perlite as a fertilizer. Sarah Judd, who operates Meadow Lynn Market Garden near Simcoe, Ontario, favours a peat moss mix with composted cow manure added. Since part of the family farming operation includes a dairy herd, she has a plentiful supply of the latter ingredient. Though she makes a point not to over-fertilize, Judd adds vermicompost mix as the season progresses, as needed.

Managing the conditions

For Koch, humidity control and air circulation in the greenhouse are key factors in nurturing the best possible plant for the customer. “Dampness on your seedlings is the best way to spread disease,” she says.

Temperature is another critical factor. Since Sleepy G is located near Thunder Bay, Ontario, Paulin has the added challenge of keeping her seedlings happy in a cold climate. Sleepy G does their propagation in a 30 by 48 double-walled poly hoop house, with air between the two walls providing extra insulation. The greenhouse, equipped with a wood-fired boiler and a heat exchanger, is generally able to keep the temperature in the desired range. When the outdoor
temperature dips below -6 Celsius, Paulin pulls row covers over her seedlings for an extra layer of protection.

Providing the right amount of water is also key. Over-watering, Koch notes, can be just as detrimental as under-watering. Paulin agrees, noting that Sleepy G has found it best to assign one person to the watering task, to ensure consistency and avoid yo-yoing between over- and under-watering.

Hardening off is an important step in helping the plants make the transition from the sheltered world of the greenhouse or hoop house, to their ultimate home in the garden. Jacobs transfers her plants from the greenhouse to the unheated hoop house two weeks before they’re due to go to market. She leaves both ends of the hoop house open for wind and cool air during the day, finding that sufficient to harden her plants.

Reaching your customers

Judd’s seedling sales were a natural outgrowth of her CSA operation, and many of her early seedling sale clients were CSA customers. As the seedling operation grew, she took steps to expand her customer base. Partnering with the local horticultural society on plant sales proved to be a good avenue. She also holds seedling sales at small local businesses that attract people looking for something outside the mainstream, and provides an avenue for online orders.

Like Judd, Jacobs offers online ordering. She attends a variety of plant sales during the spring. In addition, she’s arranged for a handful of health food stores and independently-owned garden centres to carry her seedlings.

For almost two decades, Koch’s seedlings were offered as part of an annual event in Kitchener which included a number of vendors. The event outgrew the venue, and Fertile Ground also found the logistics of transporting 4,000 seedlings to be prohibitive. Now they hold their own seedling sale on-farm.

With the change in venue, Koch grouped the products in separate tents so customers could easily find what they were looking for. She wishes she’d made the move to on-farm sales sooner, noting that crowded conditions and long lineups at the previous venue may have lost them some customers.

Fertile Ground has a long history in the Kitchener area, so some of their sales volume is a result of this long relationship. Koch also reaches out to potential customers through posters, email lists, sponsored ads on Facebook and social media posts on sites catering to local horticultural and gardening groups.

When he operated Wilsonville Organics near Wilsonville, Ontario, Rick Posavad grew and sold a variety of seedlings, including 70 varieties of heirloom tomatoes as well as heirloom peppers, salad greens and other offerings. Posavad was fortunate in that signage at his location, on a busy road, drove a lot of drop-in traffic. He also took advantage of the
opportunity to have information about his farm included on the local Norfolk County tourism web site to promote increased awareness.

I wish I’d known . . .

As with any other enterprise, the experience of growing and selling seedlings has provided learning points along the way.

For Jacobs, nailing down the best timing for starting seeds was a challenge. “Sometimes, it’s tempting to think you’ll get ahead by seeding a couple of weeks early, but all you end up with is leggy plants,” she says.

More than one of the interviewees had initially stayed away from offering items that a backyard gardener could easily grow from seed themselves. But Jacobs finds that lettuce seedlings offered in six-packs are a hot seller, and Judd also notes that lettuce, beet, and bean seedlings get snapped up. “You can’t assume the customer doesn’t want these products,” Judd says. “And sometimes, they can be your highest-margin sales.”

Koch started offering lettuce and bean seedlings five years ago. “We’ve quadrupled the amount of seedling greens we’ve sold in the past five years,” she says. She thinks it’s partly because “a lot of seeds are packaged in a larger volume than the backyard gardener needs. So, they can buy a few seedlings for about the same as they would pay for a packet of seeds, and someone has already done the work of getting them started.”

Worth the effort

Whether they ventured into seedling sales to utilize extra greenhouse space, or as an extension of their existing operations, the interviewees feel the effort is worth the payoff.

Seedling sales have evolved into Jacobs’ second-greatest source of income. “It was a practical way of expanding what I was already doing,” she says. “It’s a season-extender with a quick turn-around and low overhead.”

For Judd, seedling sales are an opportunity to promote her CSA and generate revenue at the start of the season. She’s already doing the work of starting seedlings for her own CSA, so a little extra effort to grow extras for sale is worth it.

Koch notes that when all is said and done, she doesn’t make a huge amount of profit on her seedling sales. However, the money generated helps offset the cost of heating the greenhouse for her own CSA seedlings, and other early-season costs.

Paulin sees the value in expanding Sleepy G’s scope to include seedling sales. “It’s a way of increasing your network, increasing your reach, and increasing market share,” she says. “In the end, the more individuals we get buying from us, the better.”